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For Immediate Release:

**Newly designated Colorado Centennial Farms to be honored August 22
at Colorado State Fair in Pueblo**

***Annual Awards Ceremony Recognizes Colorado's
Dedicated Farming and Ranching Families***

DENVER—Eleven Colorado families who have owned and operated their farm or ranch for at least 100 years will be recognized during the 22nd Annual Centennial Farms Celebration on Friday, August 22 at 4 p.m. The awards ceremony will be held on the Pepsi Stage in Family Park at the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, where honorees will receive a certificate signed by Governor Ritter and other state officials, as well as a sign to display on their property.

The awards will be presented to family representatives by Ed Nichols, president of the Colorado Historical Society, and John Stulp, commissioner of agriculture in Colorado. Six of the 11 families will also receive a Historic Structures Award. The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides this additional recognition to families who have demonstrated exemplary stewardship of their historic agricultural sites by maintaining four or more structures on their property that have reached the 50-year-old mark.

2008 Colorado Centennial Farm Awardees:

Farm/Ranch Name	Year Settled	Town, County
Andreatta Homestead Ranch	1904	Walsenburg, Huerfano County
Big Sandy Ranch	1884-1907	Calhan, El Paso County
Clements-Pease Ranch	1907	Colorado Springs, El Paso County
Drotar Family LLC	1908	Matheson, Elbert County

Fassler's Ranch	1907	Akron, Washington County
Morison Farms	1908	Fleming, Logan County
Mundy Farm & Ranch	1908	Elbert, Elbert County
Newton Dotson Farm, The	1908	Aguilar, Las Animas County
Oswald Family Ranch on Rush Creek	1907	Kit Carson, Kiowa County
Stahlecker Homestead	1905	Bethune, Kit Carson County
Wagon Wheel Ranch	1908	Fleming, Logan County

The Centennial Farms Program, started in 1986, is sponsored by the Colorado Historical Society, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the Colorado State Fair and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The awards honor Colorado's families who have maintained ownership of their land for more than a century despite the economic challenges of modern farming. At the ceremony, a brief history of each farm will be presented – the families' stories of hardship as well as prosperity. Family representatives will be available for interviews at a reception following the ceremony.

"The contributions of Colorado's long-standing farm and ranch families are significant because they have preserved important pieces of our state's history," said Nichols. The Colorado Historical Society oversees the State Historical Fund, a grants program funding historic preservation projects, including agricultural sites. "Historic barns and other agricultural sites around the nation are disappearing at an alarming rate," said Nichols. "But these families have withstood the pressures of growth, changes in farming methods, drought and economic conditions to keep their way of life."

For more information about the Centennial Farms Program or to receive an application and brochure, please call the State Historical Fund at 303.866.2825.

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